

## COVID-19 Direct Payments 101

*The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* provides money to eligible individuals. Technically, these payments are 2020 “tax rebate advances,” as they offset the taxes individuals would pay in 2020. These payments are not taxable.

### ***How much will I get?***

- Generally, eligible individuals will get \$1,200 + \$500/[child](#) and eligible married joint-filers will get \$2,400 + \$500/child. Amounts begin to phase down at \$75,000 for single filers, \$112,500 for heads of household, and \$150,000 for married joint-filers.

### ***Who is eligible?***

- Generally, any individual except “[nonresident aliens](#)” and those who can be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer, *e.g.*, college students still being claimed as dependents by their parents.
- At this time, you must have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return to receive this money *now*, unless you meet certain exceptions (see below for “non-filers”). Note: [you can still file your 2019 taxes](#).

### ***Will this money “count against” me for my eligibility with other programs?***

- As with any tax refunds, this will not count as income for determining eligibility for (or assistance provided by) any federally funded public benefit program.

### ***How do I apply for this?***

- If you’re eligible and you have filed your 2018 or 2019 taxes, you don’t have to do anything. The IRS will direct-deposit your money if the IRS has that information on file. Otherwise, the IRS will mail you a paper check. You can check the status of your payment [here](#) (you can also add direct-deposit information in that portal if your paper check hasn’t already been sent).

### ***What if I’m legally not required to file taxes, e.g., I rely only on Social Security or my gross income is less than minimum required to file?***

- If you were a 2018 or 2019 “non-filer,” *i.e.*, you were not *legally required* to file a return, you will receive your payment automatically if you receive Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits. Other non-filers should use the IRS tool [here](#) to register for payment as an alternative to filing a formal return. If you are required to file taxes but still have not, you cannot use that non-filer tool but [you can still file your 2019 taxes](#).

**[Click Here for More Details](#)**